

## Rwanda launches Irrigation Master Plan



Rwanda's economy mainly depends on the agricultural sector, particularly food crop production. Poverty reduction therefore largely depends on efforts made on the modernisation of this sector.

Although Rwanda possesses considerable water resources, they are not evenly distributed. For example, while water is abundant in the marshlands, facilities for storing it elsewhere for irrigation purposes are lacking. Farming during dry seasons is thus limited in most parts of Rwanda. Agriculture and livestock in the

eastern parts of Rwanda, where rainfall is lowest, are especially affected. This situation created a need for a full, efficient and sustainable exploitation of water resources that can help to ensure the sustainable production of food, cash, export and industrial crops.

One of the best options of achieving food security and improving people's living conditions is through the use of modern irrigation technologies. It is from this recognition that the government of Rwanda commissioned Ebony Enterprises Limited, an Israeli firm, for the development of an Irrigation Master Plan (IMP) to facilitate the management of water resources, promote irrigation and improve food security. Ebony subsequently partnered with the World Agroforestry Centre (ICRAF) to undertake this task in collaboration with Ministry of Agriculture and Animal Resources (MINAGRI) and Rwanda Agricultural Development Authority (RADA). The aim of Rwanda's IMP is to develop and manage water resources to promote intensive and sustainable irrigated agriculture and improve food security in Rwanda. Specifically, the objective of the IMP is to provide Rwanda with a planning tool for rational exploitation of its soil and water resources as represented by the respective domains (see Figure 1) at both national and district levels. This tool is intended to lead to an increase in crop production for local consumption, as well as to promote production of high-value crops.

In order to produce the IMP, ICRAF developed a flow chart matrix that identifies potential irrigation areas and water sources by mapping biophysical and socioeconomic parameters. Details of this work are provided in the IMP document which was launched on the 17<sup>th</sup> September 2010 in a ceremony graced by the Right Honourable Prime Minister of the Republic of Rwanda and the Honourable Minister for Agriculture and Animal Resources, Dr. Agnes Kalibata. In her remarks, Hon. Kalibata, commended ICRAF and Ebony for a job well done. A number of organizations from diplomatic missions, international research institutions, local NGOs and the community were represented during the launch of the IMP.

Click this link for more detail on the Irrigation Master plan: [http://intranet.icraf.org/docs/IMP\\_poster.pdf](http://intranet.icraf.org/docs/IMP_poster.pdf)

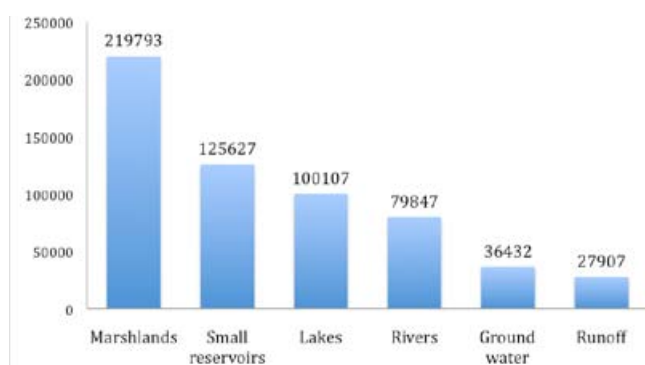


Figure 1. Rwanda's total irrigable area and size of each irrigation domain

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The Collective Action underpinning this project involved collaboration between the Rwandan Ministry of Agriculture and Animal Resources (MINAGRI), the Rwanda Agricultural Development Authority (RADA), Ebony Enterprises Limited, and the World Agroforestry Center's East African Regional Office.

This document has been produced with the financial assistance of the European Union and with the technical support of IFAD. The views expressed herein can in no way be taken to reflect the official opinion of IFAD and the European Union

## Newsbytes

### CIAT Research in Africa

The International Centre for Tropical Agriculture (CIAT) now has 19 projects listed in the CGMap Ongoing Research in Africa. CIAT Africa pursues a progressive program of research on technology and processes that helps rural communities build sustainable livelihoods through competitive agriculture, healthy agro-ecosystems, and rural innovation. The research areas encompass agro biodiversity, crops, ecosystems, land and water management, soils, and market access. In pursuit of these goals, CIAT works with various partners and uses participatory methods that offer rural people the chance to play an active role in devising better ways to improve crop productivity, build rural agro enterprises, and manage soil fertility, pests, and plant diseases. View the full range of CIAT projects here: <http://ongoing-research.cgiar.org/>

### CGIAR Consortium Board appoints new CEO

The Consortium Board of the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research has announced the appointment of the first Consortium Chief Executive Officer, who will lead the CGIAR in the implementation of its new business model. Mr Lloyd Le Page currently works for Pioneer Hi-Bred, a Du Pont business. Chair of the Consortium Board, Carlos Perez del Castillo, said "Mr Le Page will be able to bring new elements to the CGIAR reform program, catalyse more effective partnerships with the private sector, donors, stakeholders, farmers and the CGIAR centers, to ensure the reform process has impact on the ground". Speaking about his vision for change in a recent interview, Lloyd Le Page said that the CGIAR "must remain focused on research, but we must work together with others to ensure that research is meaningful and reaches the farmer through new and innovative partnerships and approaches that can be measured and evaluated".

COLLECTIVE ACTION NEWS is a periodical e-publication of the CGIAR's Regional Collective Action in Eastern and Southern Africa, hosted at the International Livestock Research Institute and the World Agroforestry Centre, both of which are supported by the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR)

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